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### Character Witnesses.

In courts of law there are frequently called to the stand what are technically known as "character witnesses". These witnesses are summoned either to impeach or to indorse some one's personal standing among his fellowmen. The usual form of interrogatory in such cases is this:

"What is this man's reputation among the people with whom he associates for truth and veracity? Is it good or bad?"

Mr. Cowherd's immense plurality, in his home city, at the primary of August 4th, is a convincing and sufficient reply to any questions which can be made as to his character as a citizen and his reputation as a man.

In the community in which he has lived and mingled during the major portion of an honorable and distinguished career as a lawyer and public servant, he has been overwhelmingly indorsed as their choice for Governor by a great majority of all the voters of his party.

The world over, a man is to be judged by the consensus of the personal opinions regarding him held by those who best know him.

No candidate for public office, in Missouri or any other commonwealth, ever received a more striking or nearly unanimous indorsement from his neighbors and immediate fellow-citizens than did Mr. Cowherd. Those voters who do not themselves enjoy the personal acquaintance of Mr. Cowherd, or who have not been privileged to listen to him as a public speaker, possess this verdict of his own home as a touch-stone of his worth. As a practitioner at the bar he has possessed the confidence of his clients and the respect of the bench. During his long and eminent service in the national legislature, no whisper of suspicion as to the uprightness of his motives ever was breathed by even his most active opponents.

Learned, profound and experienced, dignified, astute and of conviction of purpose—the Democratic nominee for Governor of Missouri will carry to the executive chair of this great State not only a high sense of duty to all the people but abilities of a shining quality, fitting him as a worthy successor to a chair which has been adorned by the active eminence of a long line of Democratic predecessors.

William S. Cowherd will make a great Governor. He possesses an unflinching devotion to what he believes to be right, yet is constitutionally of that broad and liberal mind which will brush aside petty technicalities when it is evident that they are not expressive of the real will of the people.

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es, bananas, and grapes.

### Prominent Young People Wed.

Eugene L. Doty and Miss Doll Foulds were married at the home of the bride at 4:00 o'clock p. m. Thursday, October 15, 1908 in the presence of the immediate families of the contracting parties.

The bride is the pretty daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Foulds of near Higginsville. Mr. Foulds is one of the most prominent farmers and best citizens Lafayette county. Miss Foulds is well known in Odessa and is a charming young lady whose friends are only limited by her acquaintance.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Doty, of east of Odessa, and is one of the best and most prominent families in this section. He is a sturdy young farmer, full of business sagacity, energetic and has a character that is above reproach and that is an example worthy of emulation.

The happy young couple left this afternoon for Colorado Springs and other western points for a bridal tour. The best wishes of their many friends is extended them in their new relationship.—Odessa Democrat.

Concerning the announcement made to its employees a few days ago by a cream separator manufacturer that its plant would be closed down in the event of Mr. Bryan's election, the Nebraska made the following comment in one of his Missouri speeches last Saturday: "A press dispatch announces this morning that a Pennsylvania manufacturer of separators has given notice to his employees that the factory will close down for an extended period if I am elected. This is the most discouraging threat that I have yet read. I had supposed that the cows would go giving milk under a Democratic administration as well as under a Republican administration, but if as a result of my election the cows are going to dry up in November and not become fresh again for four years, it will really be a serious matter. There must be some mistake about this separator business. The men may be manufacturing the separator the Republican party has been using; for it has been using a separator that has separated the cream from the milk and it has given the cream to the monopolies and the skimmed milk to the rest of the people."

About all a man has to do nowadays to acquire the title of "colonel" is to start in the auctioneering business. Any little 2x4 fellow with a pair of lusty lungs and a gift for gab is called "colonel" if they can sell a dollars worth of trace chains and a broken churn dasher for 80 cents. Wouldn't it be a refreshing change if some auctioneer came forward and insisted that the people call him plain mister? There is entirely too much of this fool title business anyway.—Oak Grove Banner.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

### PERTINENT POINTS FOR THE VOTER

#### CONDENSED REVIEW OF THE PURPOSES OF EACH OF THE EIGHT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS THAT ARE UP FOR DECISION.

No. 1. Proposes to fix the compensation of members of the General Assembly at \$750 annually, including mileage and other expenses incident to the office; except that committees officially visiting institutions, outside the capital, shall receive actual expenses for such visits.

The pay of legislators now is \$5 for each day of regular sessions of 70 days, and for special sessions. Every 10 years a revising session of 120 days is held, which also pays \$5 per day—\$1 per day is allowed for sessions that run beyond the regular provided length of the session.

The present allowance of mileage, as well as the \$30 a session for stationery, would be discontinued.

#### COUNTY GOO DROAD TAX.

No. 2. Gives County Courts discretionary authority to levy a tax of 25 cents on the \$100 valuation for road and bridge purposes exclusively. This levy is not obligatory. It only removes the constitutional limitations which withhold from the county and townships the power to raise by local taxation ample road revenue.

This amendment is indorsed by both Democratic and Republican platforms, as well as by the State Board of Agriculture, and is simply a local option or home rule measure for building and maintaining good roads and bridges. Do you want good roads? Vote yes.

#### INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

No. 3. The people who framed the Constitution of Missouri had the Referendum principle in mind to safeguard their rights and liberties, because they reserved to themselves exclusive power to make and amend the Constitution.

#### WHAT IS THE THIRD AMENDMENT

The Initiative gives the voters the right to propose a law—to call for a decision by a majority of the people.

The Referendum reserves to the voters the right of review over the acts of their Representatives at all times—to have the people to sanction or veto any of their acts.

It is an emergency provision, permitting veto of the majority, over the Legislature's acts.

#### WHAT IT WILL DO.

It destroys the power of legislators to pass laws for personal or selfish private ends.

It makes the interest of the law giver coincide with Justice—thus blending power with public good.

It operates, not because it has to be applied, but because the possibility of its application serves the purpose.

It is in operation in five states, been decided constitutional by five State Supreme Courts—and also by the U. S. Supreme Court.

It guards Representative Government, by eliminating Mis-Representation.

The Legislature that refuses to pass a measure the people desire; or, that passes a bad law the people oppose, can be corrected through its operation.

The People always select their representatives. Why should they not reserve power to pass upon their acts?

The strongest argument used against the Referendum is that its broadening tendencies might be dangerous to private ownership of special privilege.

#### TO INCREASE SUPREME COURT JUDGES.

No. 4. This Amendment increases the number of Judges of the Supreme Court from seven to nine, provides for three divisions of the court instead of two, for calling in a circuit judge in case of sickness or disqualification of a judge of the Supreme Court, and equalizes the salary of the judges of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal.

This Amendment has been indorsed by the Bar Association of the State. The Supreme Court is now three years behind its docket, falling more and more behind each year, and this amounts in many cases to a denial of justice, as a poor man can not afford to wait for justice, while the rich corporation can. The increased expense is a mere trifle in consideration of the right of the people to a prompt administration of justice.

A peculiarly excellent feature of this Amendment is that of calling in circuit judges in case of the disqualification of the judges of the Supreme Court or Courts of Appeal. This expedient has been in successful operation in the Federal Courts, and would add immensely to the efficiency of the court at very little extra expense.

#### HOME RULE IN TAXATION.

No. 5. This Amendment is the result of the thorough investigation of the system of taxation by two non-partisan State Tax Commissions, one appointed by Gov. Dockery in 1902, and composed as follows: Judge W. M. Williams, Attorney General; Edward C. Crow and Judge Peyton A. Parks; and the other, appointed by Gov. Folk, in 1906, and composed as follows: Frederick N. Judson, author of "Taxation in Missouri;" Herbert S. Hadley, Attorney General; Edward C. Crow, ex-Attorney General; Judge W. M. Williams, Isidor Loef, Professor of Political Science and Public Law in the University of Missouri; Prof. F. M. Crunden, Public Librarian of St. Louis, and John H. Rothwell, member of the Forty-second General Assembly.

The members of the commission were unanimous in finding that our existing system of taxation was hopelessly defective, resulting in the grossest inequalities and inefficiency. This amendment provides for the separation of the sources of state and local revenue as well as the discontinuance of the state property tax of \$1.70 on each \$1,000 valuation.

It gives to local governments local option or home rule in taxation, permitting them to tax, or exempt from taxation any class of property within their jurisdiction; provided, that any taxation, or exemption from taxation, made in any county or city shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects within such territory. This local option feature is limited only by the right, reserved by the state, to levy any tax upon the special subjects of taxation, other than the general property tax.

In place of the present property tax for State purposes, the State's revenue will be raised from the exercise of its general taxing power, by license, corporation taxes, mortgage recording tax and the like.

It is the purpose of the amendment that the State shall raise its revenue from any source deemed expedient, except on real and personal property. The adoption of this amendment would relieve the taxpayer of Missouri of the tribute of some \$2,000,000 a year which they now pay to the State and in lieu thereof pay important interests which now largely escape taxation. It would leave every dollar of this money in the cities and counties to be used for roads and other local improvements if the people of the several communities should choose to apply it in that way.

The present system is a crushing burden upon the producers of the State, such as farmers, whose personal property, such as live stock and farm implements cannot be concealed. The true remedy is to substitute an effective for an ineffective tax, which is made possible under this amendment—a tax which can be evaded is necessarily an unequal tax, because it discriminates against the honest and scrupulous man in favor of the dishonest and unscrupulous.

This amendment was endorsed by the State Association of County Assessors, at their recent meeting at Booneville, where they recommended it to the people for adoption, and also by the State Teachers' Association at their recent meeting at Joplin, where they declared that the present system of taxation was a direct hindrance to the development of the educational interests of the state.

A vote for this amendment is a vote for Home Rule in Taxation.

#### PROVIDING FOR MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS.

No. 6. This amendment allows cities between two and thirty thousand inhabitants to issue bonds for self-sustaining improvements, such as waterworks and electric light plants, so that the indebtedness for such improvements would be excluded from the computation in determining whether the limit of 5 per cent for the total valuation of bonds is exceeded or not. Under this amendment the amount of bonds heretofore or hereafter issued for self-sustaining improvements will be excluded in determining whether the city has reached its constitutional limit of indebtedness. As the principle of this amendment was approved by the people in 1902, and a two-thirds vote of the people directly interested is required for an application of the amendment, it does not seem to be open to objection and none has been urged.

#### CONFLICTING AMENDMENT.

No. 7. Proposes that a State tax of 10 cents on the \$100 of assessed valuation be levied on all subjects of taxation. The proceeds of this tax would constitute the State road fund to be apportioned and distributed among the several counties of the State, in such manner as may be directed by law, for the building of roads and bridges.

There would be no objection to it if it did not unfortunately conflict with the proposal of the fifth amendment, to do away with the State tax on real and personal property.

But no advocate of good roads, or of State aid for good roads should vote against the fifth amendment because of this conflict. The State will be much better able to help in constructing a good roads system for Missouri under an efficient system of taxation than it can under the present system which puts a premium on tax-dodging and does not secure adequate compensation for franchisees and other special privileges.

Any citizen who desires the separation of the sources of State and local taxation and the removal of about \$2,000,000 State tax on real and personal property must logically vote against this amendment.

Both the Democratic and Republican platforms contain promises of State aid for good roads, so that our legislators will be obliged to make ample provision for this work under the broader and more just provisions of the fifth amendment.

#### MUNICIPAL SUBWAYS.

No. 8. Authorizes cities having 100,000 population or more to purchase or construct and operate a subway or subways whenever two-thirds of the qualified voters voting in such city shall vote in favor thereof. It creates no debt in and of itself as such improvements would be self-sustaining.

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As one of Mr. Bryan's chief assistants for twelve years in the great fight to "Let the people rule," he has so vigorously opposed, on the stump and in the Senate, Republican leaders that they are exceedingly anxious to defeat him for re-election to a second term as Senator.

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